

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8934

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA COMMENTS ON CONGEN BOMBING, UN, AND OIL.

1. AS REPORTED IN MEXICO CITY PRESS JULY 17, PRES. ECHEVERRIA GAVE LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY FAUSTO ZAPATA AT HIS SIDE. AMONG QUESTIONS ASKED WAS ONE REFERRING TO BOMBING OF MEXICAN CONGEN IN LOS ANGELES. ECHEVERRIA RESPONDED SAYING IT WAS A DEPLORABLE ACT WHICH "WOULD NOT RESULT IN ALTERING DIRECTIONS OF ANY MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY." ADDED THAT HE HOPED COMPETENT U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD CLEAR UP AND ASSESS PUNISHMENT FOR THE ACT.

2. ECHEVERRIA WAS ALSO ASKED HIS REACTION TO SECY. KISSINGER'S MILWAUKEE SPEECH AND POSSIBILITY U.S. MIGHT WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS. SIDESTEPPING NEATLY, ECHEVERRIA SAID WE SHOULD ALL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STRENGTHEN UN, WHICH DESPITE OCCASIONAL CONFLICTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, "HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF MANY SOLUTIONS PROMOTING PEACE AND COOPERATION."

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3. QUERIED REPEATEDLY ON OIL AND OPEC MATTERS,

ECHEVERRIA REMARKED THAT MEXICO IS NOW ONLY A MINOR EXPORTER OF PETROLEUM NOTWITHSTANDING "ANONYMOUS AND ILL-INTENDED REPORTS IN U.S. PRESS" THAT OIL DISCOVERIES IN MEXICO WERE AS IMPORTANT AS THOSE IN PERSIAN GULF. "NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH," SAID ECHEVERRIA. "OUR RESOURCES, COMPARED TO THOSE OF THE GREAT OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES, ARE MODEST." HOWEVER, HE ADDED, MEXICO'S ECONOMY HAS ALREADY BENEFITED FROM OIL EXPORTS AND MEXICO IS PRESSING AHEAD INTENSIVELY WITH EXPLORATIONS IN HOPE OF ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT EXPORT LEVELS. ONCE IT BECOMES A MAJOR OIL EXPORTERS, ECHEVERRIA SAID, MEXICO WOULD HOPE AND EXPECT TO BE INVITED TO JOIN OPEC.

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